



# CALIFORNIA GARDEN

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*June, 1918*

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*San Diego Floral Association*

*Tuesday Evening, June 18th*  
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# The California Garden

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WE have arrived at that season of stock-taking known in the business world as the end of the year, that is, for The San Diego Floral Association, and though this body has always rather prided itself upon being unbusiness-like, when it came to dispensing its favors, which often went equally to the just and unjust, it must at this time of conservation of all energy, ask itself whether it has any business to continue to exist, in other words we are about to inquire, "Why a Floral Association, anyway?"

In order to get at the meat of this matter we have to find out what the Floral Association has done and can do and then decide whether it is worthwhile, but before making the diagnosis we wish to say that in our opinion it is unnecessary and we do it only because the past has shown that our opinion is so very often a forlorn one stranded in no man's land.

The past year has been a hard one for all pure aesthetic activities, such having always been supported out of the leavings from what the majority consider the REAL things of life, such as business, golf and bridge, but lately the WAR and its demands have been a REAL REAL thing, not only asking for more than ever before in the world's history, but getting it, and it is inconceivable that any organization such as the Floral Association, existing absolutely for a public service, should desire to deflect to itself anything that could possibly be of service in the ONE GREAT ISSUE. But has not this Association a work to do in that issue? Back of all the work in our gardens, the talk in our meetings is the thing for which the world strives ever, in a small degree, perhaps, but yet it is there, to make the world a better, more joyous living place for ourselves and those that come after. Always in history, whether recorded in the days of writing or earlier in rude marks scratched on rocks, society has had a leaven of folks who, feeling beauty and sweetness in color and form, sought to express it in one of the mediums that today we group as Art. Their labors no doubt

were in the earliest periods treated with contempt, perhaps not always good natured, but increasingly as man became one of Nature's Finer Forces, instead of a mere brute force, the Artist gained renown till today he and his works are part of our atmosphere. This atmosphere is today rudely shocked with a wholesale return to the Brute Force period aggravated by all the ingenuity acquired in the ages and we fight for an atmospheric condition that decent humans can breathe. Must we not hold on to higher things in our hearts while we fight like the devil with our bodies?

During the past year the activities of the Floral Association have been almost exclusively war activities. Its shows were Red Cross Shows, its magazine, this one, has been half the propaganda of various Government war departments, and almost daily its ministrations in distributing flowers have been directed toward our soldiers. These things it can continue to do and many think they are worthwhile, but it is the spirit that keepeth alive. The gift of a flower is little, but it may be something in the great difference or rather one great difference between our army and any other and that is the enormous organized effort on the part of the Government and the people through great organizations like the Red Cross, the Y. M. C. A., etc., and individually all over the land to hold within our soldiers all that is worth while in our civilization, to keep back the brutalising influence of being in the business of killing. This is a splendid expression of our realization that our Army is ourselves; not a selection of mere fighting machines, but our boys, and we want them home, if such be their destiny to fit again into our atmosphere charged with all the beauty and sweetness and brotherliness we can compass. So lots of us grow our flowers and mow our lawns and even start new gardens, not because we are careless of the job we have to do but because while our boys fight for the privilege of enjoying the beautiful things of life we who cannot fight hold on to and maintain something of those beautiful things against the inevitable

day when the fighters victorious shall come back and expect to find them.

So during the coming year the Floral Association can be a holding force; it can at least send round its floral messengers; it can hearten up those gardeners who for cause may be apt to say, "What is the use?" and it can perpetuate itself which will be something, seeing it has been acknowledged as a good thing.

From a story in a recent number of the Saturday Evening Post the following is extracted as a matter of much interest, supposing it be any more than delightful fiction, it deals with the agricultural problem in the much shot part of the French Front.

"I had special permits from both War Offices and went over Flanders, the Somme, Champagne and Verdun—the worst shot-over spots on the Western Front—to make observations on the quality of the soil and its possible debilitation.

And you know they are absolutely and entirely wrong when they say that soil is done

for. Why, just think a moment. I've dynamited a California ranch to crack up the hardpan. Out in Kansas, at the most wonderful agricultural college in the world, we exploded small charges of dynamite at twenty-foot intervals and increased the yield of a test field of barley fifty per cent.

What is the subsoil of Northern France? Stratum after stratum of decomposing chalk. There is not any soil in the world that needs blowing up more. No farmer could afford to give it the blowing up it has had.

And that is only theory, but we don't need theory. They have only to go to the hottest part of the Somme and look at the wild flowers there. Petunias and snapdragons and nasturtiums, out of a little old-fashioned garden that had been turned upside down a dozen times by the shells bursting, all agrowing and ablowing, bigger than I ever saw such stuff. It was wonderful, and at the bottom of a great Jack Johnson hole I saw a sheaf of Indian corn big enough to stop a tank."

To the Members of the San Diego Floral Association and Subscribers to California Garden.

DEAR FRIEND: We are coming to you with our annual appeal for a good attendance at the annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association, which will be held on the evening of Tuesday, June 18, at 7:45, at the rooms of the Thearle Music Company, 640 Broadway. A special effort is being made to give you a pleasant evening, and at the same time discuss the work of the Floral Association and gather ideas on the course of action for the coming year. The old officers will make their reports and a new board of directors will be elected. Nominations for places on the board may be made at any time before the election, by writing suggestions to the President's office, Room 303, Union Building.

We don't need to tell you that the times at present are strenuous, but we do want to suggest that economy does not mean the withdrawal of support from worthy enterprises, unselfishly conducted, as is the Floral Association and California Garden. If ever such an organization was needed, it is needed right now, and in asking for your support, we are more than ever convinced that the work of this Association should be increased, rather than curtailed, and it could be done if all present members and others who are interested would pay promptly their dues and subscriptions.

The committee in charge of the annual meeting, Miss Sessions, Mr. Blochman and Mr. Hieatt, has provided some choice plants (many new ones from recent importations) to be given as souvenirs to every one present. It is also urged that those who have new and rare plants bring specimens of bloom, branch or plant to the meeting for an exhibit of late introductions and novelties.

In order to comply with the postal regulations we must drop from our subscription list those who are more than a year in arrears. We earnestly ask you that you remit promptly the amount of the enclosed bill, and assure you of our grateful appreciation.

STEPHEN CONNELL, President.  
ALICE M. GREER, Secretary.

ALFRED D. ROBINSON, Editor  
G. T. KEENE, Manager.



# The Eleventh Annual Rose Show

By G. R. GORTON



THE Floral Association has added another star to the crown of glory it ought to be wearing for the enviable record it has established in the many years past in the difficult art of staging successful flower shows. Its recent effort in this direction, attended by some 3,500 people, has been generally rated as a success. It was gratifying to note that several new exhibitors had entries, and very creditable ones indeed, which was attested by the fact that several ribbons were very deservedly carried off by them. The schools did not as a whole make a general exhibit, but several schools were represented as bodies and as individual pupils. San Diego High School, occupying an entire alcove of the gallery of the California Building, presented a composite exhibit ranging from wild flowers on through grains, etc., to cut flowers, decorated tables and floral pieces—truly a diversified and well executed display. The fact that their display was so varied might quite properly be interpreted, it would seem, as meaning that the field of botanical instruction was equally broad and well balanced, and, judging by such specimens as were shown, each phase seems to have been thoroughly handled. Among the interesting features of their exhibit was a formal design worked out in school colors with elder flowers as a background, and the school letters in dark blue pansies, and the whole bordered with yellow roses, with a touch of *Asparagus plumosus*. A more utilitarian feature consisted of sprays of very prosperous looking barley grown by Claybourn LaForce. Sherman School made a very attractive display of cut flowers and baskets, receiving several awards.

Easily the finest display of roses by an amateur was shown by Mr. A. D. Robinson and was not entered in competition. His collection was arranged in the form of a red cross with General McArthur forming the center, and Druschki, Mrs. Aaron Ward, Mrs. Waddell, Marechel Neil and several other less known charming varieties, including a certain Iona Herdman—an excellent deep yellow sort. The last word in Cecil Brunners was also exhibited by Mr. Robinson, showing a large flowered, long stemmed, beautifully foliaged type which develops as a result of shading with its own foliage.

Mrs. Erskine Campbell and Mrs. Caroline Heilbron showed collections of some exceptionally fine colors in *Pelargoniums*, being awarded first and second premiums, respectively. Mrs. Campbell also exhibited a remarkable collection of Japanese Tree Peonies in shades and combinations of red, pink and

white. These were grown at their mountain ranch at Pine Hills, where conditions are more nearly in accord with the particular climatic requirements of this charming product of the Japanese gardener's art.

In speaking of the Balboa Park exhibit one is tempted to deal largely in superlatives—even the most blase of regular and critical visitors who had "seen 'em all".

In and in front of the alcove at the north side of the building, the monuments which are representative of a civilization and a culture centuries old, blended most appropriately with the more perishable examples of modern art which surrounded them. The effect of tropical jungle was well and effectively carried out and so realistically that one or two of the visitors who saw it inquired if the "planting" was permanent.

One of the stellar features of the flower show was the table of Los Angeles roses, cut from the Park Rose Garden. This rose, introduced by Howard and Smith within the last year or two, is a real addition to the kingdom of roses. It has size of bloom, length of stem, color in pleasingly variable shades, and beauty of form, equalled by few recent or even older varieties. Many of the other varieties from the rose garden were shown on banks of moss, and comprised well grown specimens of some of the most choice varieties in California rose-dom.

The County Horticultural Commission displayed specimens of many insect enemies of plants and trees and the controls therefor. Formulas were distributed and questions answered for the troubled gardeners.

The professional class was largely conspicuous by its absence. It would seem to the casual observer that our local nurserymen are neglecting exceptional opportunities to advertise their wares directly to the plant buying portion of the public which is represented at these flower shows.

Miss Sessions broke an otherwise almost perfect score of nothing in the professional class with an exhibit composed of many specimens of rare and interesting varieties, several of which were entirely new to this part of the world. A number of flowers from interesting bulbous plants were among those present. *Clanthus fragrans* was offered as a suggestion for borders. A tulip which we were told would "really thrive" in this vicinity, was another feature.

Among roses shown on Miss Sessions' table was *rosea gigantea*, a single white climber, Amazon, a yellow tea rose of good color and form, and "Thornless Beauty", a pink climber

figured conspicuously. Specimens of *Berberis Wilsoni*, and *Fuchsia Minima* were shown as promising subjects for hedge purposes. San Diego is not only the birthplace of California, but is also the birthplace of a seedling pink carnation—one Daniel—a most attractive sort, possessing all the attributes which a good carnation should, notably the perfume. Altogether, Miss Sessions' exhibit was highly educational for those who are not content to follow along the beaten path, but are alert for what the catalogs call "novelties of merit."

Several artistic examples of table decorations were displayed. Mrs. L. A. Blochman was awarded the blue ribbon for a very dainty design in pink and white stocks. J. H. Bradshaw captured the second award with a centerpiece of mixed flowers. It sometimes seems as if there was needed a class in which might be entered all of the out of the ordinary things, such as are shown by some one at every flower show, and many of which are exceedingly interesting. In this class, had there been one, might have been entered a specimen of *Amorphophallus Rivieri*, shown by Mr. and Mrs. R. P. McDaniel, *Bruemansia sanguinea* (or *Datura Sanguinea*, as you prefer) shown by C. Vedder, *Anchusa "species"*, a fine blue in a low bedding plant, shown by Miss Nan Cristadora, deep copper colored *Eschscholtzia*, shown by J. H. Bradshaw, also a basket of exceptionally fine *Eschscholtzia* of lighter shade, shown by Mrs. Lavigne, and many, many others.

The Dryden Art Reed Co. exhibited a great variety of reed baskets and garden furniture, which suggests the thought that at the fall show dealers in such accessories, as well as dealers in garden tools, etc., might, to the mutual profit of the public and themselves, be represented by similar exhibits.

Music was furnished by the San Diego Conservatory Orchestra, under the direction of Master Fred Olsen, also a Victrola, loaned by courtesy of Thearle Music Co., and a Columbia by the Frevert-Bledsoe Furniture Company.

A complete list of awards follows:

Best collection of roses, not less than 12 varieties—First, Mrs. F. T. Scripps, Braemar; second, Mrs. T. B. Thompson, Loma Alta.

Best collection of roses, six varieties—First, Miss Leda Klauber.

Best six white roses—First, F. L. Hieatt; second, Mrs. F. J. Hruska.

Best six pink roses—First, Samuel J. Agnew; second, Mrs. Maxfield Cook, Chula Vista.

Best six red roses—First, Mrs. Maxfield Cook; second, Mrs. F. J. Hruska.

Best six yellow roses—First, Mrs. J. C. Crenshaw; second, Miss Leda Klauber.

Best six shaded yellow roses—First, Sam J. Agnew; second, Mrs. Maxfield Cook.

Best six shaded pink roses—Second, Mrs. Maxfield Cook.

Best arranged basket of roses—First, Mrs. F. J. Hruska; second, Mrs. Nelson Barker.

Best arranged basket of flowers other than roses—First, Mrs. George W. Marston; second, Mrs. M. Kew.

Best arrangement of flowers in dish or bowl—First, Mrs. Maxfield Cook; second, Miss Morrison.

Best bulb flowers—First, Mrs. C. W. Darling, Chula Vista; amaryllis; second, Mrs. Stephen Connell, ranunculus.

Best display of wild flowers by school—First, San Diego High School.

Best display of cut flowers from a child's garden—First, Charlotte Robinson; second, Helen Ecker. Special, Nadeau Blake.

Best display of annuals and perennials—First, Miss Ellen M. Scripps, La Jolla; second, Mrs. E. H. Putnam.

Best one rose—First, Mrs. Maxfield Cook; second, J. H. Bradshaw.

Best display from public school in county—First, San Diego High School; second, Sherman school.

Best table decoration—First, Mrs. L. A. Blochman; second, Mrs. J. H. Bradshaw.

Best 12 red roses, professional class—First, William R. Ito.

Sweet peas—First, Mrs. Edmund Lockwood; second, J. H. Bradshaw.

Carnations—First, J. H. Bradshaw.

Pelargoniums—First, Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell; second, Mrs. Caroline Heilbron.

Shirley and tulip poppies—First, Mrs. S. A. Dale.

Snapdragons—Special, Mrs. Mary S. Greer, seedling of her own raising.

Collection of Japanese tea paeonies—Special, Mr. and Mrs. Erskine J. Campbell.

The following also received special prizes:

Mrs. C. W. Darling, for fine General McArthur roses on one stem.

C. Vedder, *brugmansia sanguinea*.

Mr. and Mrs. R. P. McDaniel, *amorphallus river*.

Alfred D. Robinson, for best and largest display of roses.

J. H. Bradshaw, for copper colored *eschscholtzia*.

Claiborne La Force, for barley.

San Diego horticultural commission, insects, disease pests and controls.

San Diego nursery, Miss K. O. Sessions, for best and most meritorious professional display.

Mrs. S. Connell, basket of *Watsonias*.

Dryden Art Reed Co., display of rattan basketry.

Balboa park, for basket of Los Angeles roses, for general display of roses and for general miscellaneous exhibit.

"We are all comrades in a great enterprise."  
—Woodrow Wilson.



# The Lath House

A. D. Robinson

**T**HE last month has been rather cool for the lathhouse things and the life of the low temperature lovers has been prolonged. Cinerarias, especially the Stellata variety, are still presentable the first of June, however, tuberous begonias have been held back though they are now budding. This has its advantages as stockier plants should result and the always offensive staking be curtailed. It would seem wise to warn against much fertilizing, especially with liquid, till growth is more vigorous, as only at that time can plants use it in quantity. All beds in the lathhouse should now have received a thorough working up and this loose condition should be maintained by frequent stirring. A potato hoe is a fine tool for it. This is advisable because the sprinkling is absolutely necessary for summer time soon compacts our soil to the exclusion of both air and moisture and this suggests that as opportunity offers lathhouse soil should be replaced with leaf mold and sand, for very few of our plants grown under lath, require stiff soil, and most of them hate it. Further it may be suggested that the soil in the lathhouse can look mighty good and be abominable for conditions tend to sourness. The constant withdrawal of plant food if not replaced soon leaves a soil shell. Stop to think how very few of the lathhouse family grow naturally in our local soil. Ferns appear in odd corners where leaves have drifted and shade tends to moisture. The small varieties found in dry places don't like lathhouses. It will be apparent that it is folly to plant the things therein that love loose soil, chiefly humus.

Built up mounds exhaust the usefulness of their soil very quickly, possibly because they have to be self-sustaining and cannot draw from their environment. One of the first signs of exhaustion is the inability to hold moisture, and when this lack is apparent it saves time and temperature to dig it all out around the large things and reset the small ones in fresh material. Of course it must be wet up to do this and then the soil will look so good it seems a shame to touch it, but just look at the yellow fronds and stunted growths and dig. For replacing old cow manure can be used even to a half proportion if it be kept thoroughly wet for a week or two, and lacking leaf mold a coarse sand is better than anything stiffer.

From now on watering late in the day can be advantageously practiced. It gives cool, damp nights and the temperature at night is not appreciably cooler than the day.

Where lathhouses are spaced a lath apart unless there is other shade too much sun gets through for many things and it would probably be worth trying to add a thin cheese cloth if such can be had at an experimental price. Ferns showing yellow rather than a luscious dark green often are suffering from too much light rather than over or under watering or lack of fertilizer. This applies particularly to the Nephrolepis, or Bostons, and in a certain instance the shade of a wistaria decidedly helped begonias and ferns, however, it is pretty certain that the additional shade must be light. It is impossible almost without some additional shade to handle seed without standing over it with a sprinkling can though the seedlings must soon have all the light possible. Undoubtedly a thin curtain on a roller would be the thing.


In the taller lathhouses now being built and where space will allow *Isochroma Fuchsioides* is very handsome. Its large leaves and big bunches of dull and tubular flowers constantly produced are very effective and it drapes pleasingly. Let it be reiterated, however, that it wants room, for it GROWS.

Where are all those other tree ferns we should have? Not the big specimens at \$200 each, or something prohibitive, but small ones, such as are obtainable in *Alsophila Australis*. The writer has tried to locate them and the nearest to success was the offer of a collector in the West Indies to provide twenty-five varieties at something like \$2 each, but he simply delivered them on natives' backs at the seaport and would assume no further responsibility. Of course, now-a-days, arranging transportation would be out of the question and further the climates of the West Indies and San Diego are quite different, so much so that the experiment of transplanting direct from one to the other offers poor hopes of success. A firm in our eastern states advertised quite a list, but did not even answer an inquiry. Golden Gate Park at San Francisco has several flourishing out of doors and we don't give San Francisco any privilege to grow stuff we cannot.

Recently, for lack of any other, a brilliant red table was taken into a local lathhouse and it fitted in like a new Begonia. Just try a red table and then put on it some of those small begonias, a few ferns, and, of course, the red begonias. Red is always good in a prevailing green and it is not quite compulsory to take all the rest of the spectrum. Be bold in your lathhouse treatment; there is no great weight of precedent to prevent your having a good time.

# Pickings and Peckings

By THE EARLY BIRD

N these days of War Gardens, when the covers and insides of books and magazines are decorated with pictures of infants hardly out of arms with armsful of Brodignagian vegetables, presumably raised by these juveniles, I have been struggling with my kiddie to produce something that will photograph well, and she stoutly affirms she would do it if I would only let her alone, and she has an inherited ability to make me look foolish in an argument, so I am going to put the case before you.

Right out from our back stoop is a considerable bit of ground with some regularly spaced but negligible fruit trees therein, and also a tree whereon a crop of washing hangs whenever at rare intervals we have domestic help that will wash. This space the kiddie considers her garden, and according to a system only understood by herself, she plants it. At plowing and cleaning up time this spring she had in it four potato plants, two beans, variety unknown, a patch of wheat, one carrot and several other things she said, but they were not visible to the naked eye of others. These were so disposed that one or the other of them got in the way of any projected furrow, and yet it seems imperative to clean up the space. Her system of planting was perfectly strategical. A man, I and a horse and plow surveyed the scheme for long hoping to plow around something, but if we avoided the potato we ran into the bean and tramped down the carrot, and in no way could we escape the wheat. Finally I said, "We have just to plow straight ahead and forget these confounded specimen vegetables," she is not here and by the time she arrives it will be done and I will give her for her very own any vegetable or vegetables she likes to own in our regular garden, and we swung the horse to bisect the wheat, when a yell stopped us and the gardener flung herself arms outstretched upon her beloved wheat. I presented my compromise, showed the necessity of cleaning up and the impossibility of doing so without damage offered any or all of my growing crops, seed in variety and quantity without result. She was immovable and wept out quite unfounded charges about my always destroying her garden efforts. Apparently she was rooting in the wheat when she shrieked with added agony and flew towards the horse—he was on the bean. For the best part of an hour I tried entreaty, then getting irritated, started the Juggernaut through the wheat, and the eternal feminine asserted itself, for tears and entreaties stopped, and an extraordinary salvage operation com-

menced. Potatoes, bean and carrot were uprooted and planted in a row out of the way and the wheat was left to its fate. The piece was plowed, but both the men and the horse felt awful mean and did a bad job. All the transplanted vegetables grew, but the potatoes, with flourishing tops, have only given nubbins below. It is only a short time since this episode, but the whole patch is again a Chinese puzzle. I am taken to see the turnips and before I can get there I step on something else and am ironically asked if I cannot see the path. I cannot and could not find my way out without assistance. I know there are turnips, a melon that may be a squash (the doubt is the gardeners), those potatoes and the bean, (the carrot has given it up), and a vast variety of flowers. The man who really keeps our garden half respectable hates to work within a mile of this place. He cannot trim a hedge without running foul of something the kiddie claims she has nursed from childhood and before, and he is always reminded of his cardinal sin, the cutting down of her own particular oak, which had one leaf and a half and was distinguished by a weed. He knows he did it and is covered with confusion. There is always an undercurrent of interest in this garden, but it is irregular in its surface manifestation, still most things grow and she plants everything she can get her hands on. Her's is a sample garden, both as to planting and architecture. There is a cement pool about a foot across that won't hold water, surrounded artistically by cobbles and a greenhouse made of an apple box and two shakes with the glass left to the imagination. This last was not a success. Two small ferns in pots first realized its failure. A pathway is alternately lined with stones and gladiolus bulbs, the latter half planted so as to get the benefit of their shape. There is a trowel, a rake, a hoe and a spade, beside innumerable tools borrowed from the rest of the garden and they are in the handiest place where they were last used. Of course there are other gardens allied to this one in several other places, but this is the main' opus.

I have not really told you this to have you support my attitude in the spring rape. I don't want to be supported, for I don't want to make the kiddie give up her garden for one of mine. She is working out something of her own, I tell you, so that if you have a kiddie with the gardening fever and you are stronger willed, and your child is less so than mine, you may remember that the kiddie wants to plant his or her garden and not one of yours.



# The Flower Garden

By MISS MARY MATTHEWS

**T**HIS is the month when annuals and perennials make their greatest growth and give most bloom, so an ample amount of water and cultivation will be needed. Much water can be saved by planting in rows with trenches between and letting the water run slowly through them. Do not neglect to cultivate whenever the ground begins to dry. All strong growing plants, such as dahlias, "mums," gladiolus, delphiniums, etc., will be greatly benefited by an application of liquid manure at this time. Have the ground well soaked with water before applying it. Keep all dead blossoms picked off the plants which are giving lots of bloom or they will soon stop. Reserve, however, one or two plants with the best blooms in each lot and let them seed, saving the seed for next year's supply.

Many of the annuals for fall and winter blooming can go in now. Seeds of choice perennials should be started in boxes, be given good care and carried along slowly till time for setting in permanent quarters. This is also the month to start plants from seeds of the cineraria, cyclamen and primroses, for the lathhouse or pots.

All palms and other tropical subjects can be planted now. Give each one a deep hole filled in with rich soil and ample water, and after the water has soaked in thoroughly firm the soil well around them.

This is the time to divide the morea, or natal lily, and the beardless iris. Prune your shrubs as needed and also mark the spots where your best bulbs have bloomed, if planted in with other things, and if you lift them save all little bulblets and plant in a reserve bed. Bulbs may become very scarce as the seasons go by and we will have to depend on our own increase of them for future use. So many of the popular bulbs increase rapidly here and we ought to grow them in quantities where our soil suits them, also the choice perennials which are coming into favor more and more each season. Many of them can be grown with little trouble by starting plants in tins.

Start this month bamboos, ornamental grasses and decorative plants. Bamboos, where well established, will appreciate a handful of nitrate sprinkled around their roots and a thorough soaking. Agapanthus, now that they are coming into bloom, will need attention every day or so. The white variety is very beautiful and decorative, but with me has proved a very shy bloomer; likewise a very unusual ornithogalum, summer blooming, with a long pyramidal spike of

white flowers, received several seasons ago from Holland. This would be very useful for cutting if a free bloomer.

Tropical vines can be put out at this time and if you do not care to go to the expense of the rarer ones, at any rate put in a few seeds of some of the choice annual climbers. There are many beautiful ones among them. The new sky-blue moon flower, the double white morning-glory, "snow-fairy", and the gorgeous ipomoea cardinals (the cardinal climber, are all decorative and add color and beauty to the grounds in these days of war-gardens, potato patches, etc., and require only a minimum of water and care.

## WATERING THE GARDEN

How do eight out of every ten people water or irrigate their gardens? Here's what we have observed:

They stand at one end of their lot, holding in their hands the hose to which is attached an ordinary squirty nozzle. The water is turned on full force making a tiny stream which travels about ninety miles an hour (more or less) and which if it should accidentally hit you, would most surely send you endwise. It is not uncommon to see the operator frantically wave the hose up and down, thereby hoping, we suppose, to accomplish more in less time.

Now, how do you imagine the plants like this? They are either washed out or knocked silly, and the water all runs off and doesn't soak into the ground, and consequently, most of the labor and water are wasted. Most plants should be irrigated slowly. Remove the nozzle and either flood the ground or water in ditches.

If you MUST use a nozzle on the end of the hose, use one of the other style. They are to be found in several sorts, but we have so far found the "paint brush" type the most preferable.

Another bad habit in watering one's yard is to leave off the nozzle and by a continued pressure of the fingers, squirt the water here and there. This isn't so bad if all you have to irrigate is a half-dead lawn or something similar, but it is not the thing for flowers or plants which are trying to live respectable and beautiful lives.

The usual apparatus and method are just fine for washing the dust off the house or putting out a fire, but there their usefulness ends.

Consider the patience our flowers and plants must have!  
C. D. B.

# Growing the Dahlia

Alfred D. Robinson



HE Dahlia season is now here and though some planting may still be done, especially of green plants and seedlings, the crop is in the ground.

I have before spoken of increasing varieties by cuttings and am now prepared to say that this can be done with advantage to the original clump and perhaps no operation of its kind is easier. Good culture practice calls for the elimination of all but one or two stalks to a clump and these rejected shoots are the best of cuttings. They should be allowed to reach some six inches or three pairs of leaves and should then be removed by carefully digging down to the junction of the shoot and crown and separating them with a sharp knife. Quite frequently a root will already have started in which case you have a plant at once. These cuttings should be put in damp sand and kept quite wet and in the shade for a week and the chances of successful and quick rooting are increased by pinching out the crown. The paper or Grant pots without bottoms are admirable for this purpose, obviating an additional strain on the plant when planted outside and when put outside, shading with a pot or paper cone, is advisable and a ring of lime to keep away slugs or snails.

My annual plea for a rigid disbudding is in order once more. I have yet to find one objection and know of many benefits from it. It is not enough to remove the two supporting buds of the crown bud, but also the shoots in the axils of the next pair of leaves and with tall growers even those below should be pinched. This gives you a larger bloom on a longer stalk and keeps your bush coming from low down; without it stakes and more stakes are necessary to offset the topheaviness resulting from the growth being all at the top. Another advantage is that the removal of the side buds in the crown dispossesses that awful dirt colored possum acting beetle which loves to hide there. Of course many will say as they do of roses, "Oh, I want all the flowers and color I can get," but when with careful disbudding and half treatment a dahlia average is at least one hundred blooms there seems to be little argument in this.

Dahlias must have a moist soil all the time and so to conserve water and at the same time maintain a cool earth temperature mulching is quite necessary. Hitherto I have recommended as a mulch fertilizer of the barnyard variety, but this preference is wavering in favor of something more porous and strawy that will keep its place when irrigating is in progress which fertilizer will not do

when dry and the water runs down an incline. This year I harvested grass and weeds for the purpose and the finest of it seems likely to repay the labor expended. Lawn clippings are good, but if applied fresh and at all thickly will heat and do harm, a barrow load of these, if left for a couple of hours, will generate very considerable heat. Leaves, if small, are fairly satisfactory, but none but the fertilizer can be expected to fertilize, and for good results dahlias must be fed. With basins and a good mulch in ordinary summer weather one good watering a week should be enough.

This last season I left the bulk of my tubers in the ground without digging, chiefly because I was waiting for a good rain to make that digging easy. It did not come till the end of January, when partly discouraged at the outlook I left them alone. Results have not been uniform, showing that there are possibilities in sorting dahlias into early and late kinds. The first to bloom was the flesh colored cactus, Britannia, a charming sort. This was giving flowers early in May. Not very far behind was my own peony white "Star in the East," and some other Rosecroft seedlings, including Philae. Side by side with Britannia and under precisely similar conditions were Yellow Colosse, Hortulanus Fiet, Geisha, Nieblungenhort, and others, but they are over a month later. That delightful single cactus Encore is also fairly early, being just in bloom, June first. Geisha, which I have failed three several times to carry over the winter when dug, seemed quite grateful for being left alone, and three clumps of last season gave me eleven all growing well this year. However, it must be remembered that last winter was no winter at all, either from the standpoint of rain or cold.

A Point Loma dweller, who for his sins was condemned to pass the winter in Cleveland, returns, the time of his travail having been accomplished, with the report that there his perfectly true stories of the size of dahlias in San Diego were received with something worse than doubt, so it is up to us to grow them bigger and better than ever for display among our soldier boys from all over. If I could I would set all our ladies experimenting with the dahlia for a cut flower. I am confident there is a technique which will prove satisfactory. It may involve getting up or sitting up till midnight holding the shears in the teeth or what not, but I have heard of ladies gathering smelts on the beach from eleven till one in the full of the moon, so the time would not be a difficulty.



# The Vegetable Garden

By Walter Birch



HE time of great evaporation is drawing near, calling for more careful cultivation and a greater supply of water in the garden, in order to prevent loss of crispness and quality in our growing vegetables. The combination of hot sun and drying out soil very quickly affects the growing plants, and we must bestir ourselves to extra effort so that our vegetables may still have the fresh crispness that makes them so superior to the product of the average grocery store and peddler.

Irrigating by furrow, followed by fine cultivation will have much the most lasting effect, and although it takes a little longer to do, it saves time in the end, and is more beneficial to the plants, provided the cultivation is thorough and deep enough to prevent packing of the soil, leaving a good mulch on top, which will effectually conserve the moisture, and at the same time allow enough penetration of the air to keep the soil in a healthy condition. It is particularly important this year not to let our efforts in the garden slacken, but keep in mind the fact that we must continue our efforts and keep on planting and repleting maturing crops as fast as space will permit, so that we may take full advantage of our wonderful season, and raise two and three crops off the same piece of ground. Consequently, as I said last month, keep up your rotation. Where you have pulled out radishes put in cabbage, tomatoes, egg plant, etc., and where you have dug a few hills of potatoes put in sweet corn and vice versa. In this way we can be a real help in producing food, and now that the food regulations are becoming increasingly stringent we can have a supply of appetizing fresh vegetables to take the place on our tables of meat and wheat products, and we shall be surprised to find how easy it is to substitute one for the other and quite often to our distinct benefit, both in pocket book and physical well being. During this month you can plant most anything you wish, and if for any reason you did not start a garden during the winter or spring, it is not too late to do so now.

Look out for rust and mildew on your beans and spray at once with Bordeaux mixture. It is important to do this at once before the vines become generally affected, and use sulphur for mildew on both beans and peas as well as on your rosebushes. If your cucumbers or other vining plants are bothered with the little yellow spotted beetles use arsenate of lead when the fruit is young, this will poison Mr. Beetle. If you notice any of your tomato plants wilting away, pull them out, as

they are probably affected with wilt disease, which is practically incurable, except by soil treatment for future plantings, but if the fruit is spotted with brown spots, spray when young with Bordeaux mixture.

## FOOD FACTS OF FOREIGN LANDS

Moderate shipments of wheat and flour are being made from Australia to the Pacific coast of the United States

In spite of scarcity of implements and shortage of farm labor, England, Scotland and Wales have all increased their acreage of wheat.

Horse flesh is included among the meats now rationed in England under the card system.

The maximum price at which farmers may sell cattle for slaughter in Switzerland has been fixed at 23 cents per pound on the farm. Maximum prices for meats have also been established.

All private stocks of olive oil in Italy in excess of actual family needs have been requisitioned by the government.

Shipments of rice from China to the United States increased greatly during 1917 and according to present indications will break all records this year.

Shipments of sugar from Cuba to the United States are scarcely 5 per cent below last year's shipments for the corresponding time in spite of the serious shortage of ships. About three-fourth of our sugar imports this year have been from Cuba.

## COMPARATIVE SUGAR PRICES

During the first year of the war, the United States consumed more than four million tons of sugar. The wholesale price of refined sugar in this country at the present time is \$7.30 per hundred pounds, as compared with \$9.15 last August. The regulated wholesale price of sugar in various foreign countries makes an interesting comparison:

United Kingdom	.. \$12.50 per hundred pounds
France	..... 12.28 per hundred pounds
Italy	..... 26.30 per hundred pounds
Canada	..... 8.07 per hundred pounds
United States	..... 7.30 per hundred pounds

An increase of one cent per pound in the price of sugar in the United States would take at least \$82,185,820 out of the pockets of American consumers in one year.

Increase the world's bread ration by growing more breadstuff and eating less.



# A Cactus Find

By K. O. Sessions

*Cereus Emoryii* is a long, golden-spined, cylindrical cactus,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 2 inches in diameter and 12 to 30 inches in length. It grows in massed groups, very attractive in the sunlight from a short distance glistening like polished glass or brass. It is abundant along the sea coast near and north of Ensenada, and in varying patches to Tia Juana, where it can be found quite easily. It is reported that in the early days it was growing on Point Loma. Whether there is any now to be found there, I do not know. A few miles this side of Torrey Pines Park there is a fair clump of it near the top edge of a canyon near the sea and facing the south.

Lately while overlooking a small canyon near the west end of car line No. 4, I was much surprised and pleased to find a good patch of it, also on the edge of the bank and facing the south. However, the rubbish dump of the neighborhood is beginning to smother it and its growth, and its fighting strength at this last stand is doomed. This little remnant of a sturdy and interesting plant should be rescued for a clump destined to be used in

a first-class cactus garden in our Balboa park.

San Diego is favorably located for the growth of cacti and our park is large enough to build a miniature desert and not disturb the landscape of perpetual greenness and bloom!

This cactus is an interesting plant to students, botanists and travelers, and hard to observe and study in its own habitat. This winter a Canadian took home a collection of our local species. A letter this week from Cuba asks for a price list.

Why will not some nature-loving student select the cactus for her or his life work and begin at once to make San Diego the world's cactus center. For many years it has been in Germany. Why not give that pugnacious plant a chance for its life now in sunny Southern California.

Mr. H. E. Huntington of San Gabriel has a very fine collection and has now employed a specialist who gives his entire time to the care of the plants in the cactus garden of his beautiful estate.

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## The Annual Question and Answer

Monday, June 10, Miss Alice Greer, Floral Association Secretary, completed the task of making out the annual statements for membership and subscriptions, and placed them in the mails. Tuesday the first responses came in, and on Wednesday quite a bunch was left by the postman. Each mail now is bringing several checks.

No doubt the officers of the Floral Association at times feel that the meetings are not well enough attended, that interest is lagging, and that their well-intentioned efforts are misunderstood, or not appreciated. Then comes the time of year when it is put up to the friends of the flowers, to show by their approval or disapproval whether or not the Association is successfully conducted and whether it should cease its activities, and the Garden its monthly visits.

At such a time the rallying of loyal friends is really remarkable and most gratifying. Many send in their dues by return mail, and sometimes the checks are accompanied by little notes of good cheer and encouragement, and even a stamp to carry back the receipt.

Speaking of receipts, we are this year marking on the checks the date to which the account is credited, which saves many stamps and makes a receipt when it comes back from

the bank which cannot be doubted.

I suspicion that right now Pres. Connell is wondering with what measure of success he has conducted the affairs of the Association during the past year. No doubt he would like to see himself and the Association through the eyes of some of the members.

I am not setting myself up as a spokesman for the members, but from my point of view I see the meetings conducted in a business-like manner, the tasks carried through to successful completion and the many difficulties and discouragements surmounted, at a time when most unusual conditions prevail. In war times it is hard to think of the beauties of nature, especially when they are all around you.

But it wouldn't be so hard if you were living in a tent and the best that you could have would be a few geraniums; or if you were sick in a hospital, and your chaplain brought in a beautiful rose and placed it where you could reach out your hand and hold the fragrant bloom close to your fevered cheek. If you were in a country where the plowing was done by falling shells, you would want to think that some one was keeping the grass green and the vines trimmed against the time when you would be coming HOME. G. K.



# President Appeals To All

## TO JOIN ARMY OF WAR SAVERS

President Wilson has authorized the following signed statement:

"This war is one of nations—not of armies—and all of our one hundred million people must be economically and industrially adjusted to war conditions if this Nation is to play its full part in the conflict. The problem before us is not, primarily, a financial problem, but rather a problem of increased production of war essentials and the saving of the materials and the labor necessary for the support and equipment of our Army and Navy. Thoughtless expenditure of money for nonessentials uses up the labor of men, the products of the farm, mines, and factories, and overburdens transportation, all of which must be used to the utmost and at their best for war purposes.

### Urges Practice of Thrift

"The great results which we seek can be obtained only by the participation of every member of the Nation, young and old, in a national concerted thrift movement. I therefore urge that our people everywhere pledge themselves, as suggested by the Secretary of the Treasury, to the practice of thrift; to serve the Government to their utmost in increasing production in all fields necessary to the winning of the war; to conserve food and fuel and useful materials of every kind; to devote their labor only to the most necessary tasks; and to buy only those things which are essential to individual health and efficiency; and that the people, as evidence of their loyalty, invest all that they can save in Liberty bonds and war-savings stamps. The securities issued by the Treasury Department are so many of them within the reach of every one that the door of opportunity in this matter is wide open to all of us. To practice thrift in peace times is a virtue and brings great benefit to the individual at all times; with the desperate need of the civilized world today for materials and labor with which to end the war, the practice of individual thrift is a patriotic duty and a necessity.

### Appeals for Economy

"I appeal to all who now own either Liberty bonds or war-savings stamps to continue to practice economy and thrift and to appeal to all who do not own Government securities to do likewise and purchase them to the extent of their means. The man who buys Government securities transfers the purchasing power of his money to the United States Government until after this war, and to that same degree does not buy in competition with the Government.

"I earnestly appeal to every man, woman, and child to pledge themselves on or before the 28th of June to save constantly and to buy as regularly as possible the securities of the Government; and to do this as far as possible through membership in war-savings societies. The 28th of June ends this special period of enlistment in the great volunteer army of production and saving here at home. May there be none unenlisted on

that day!

"WOODROW WILSON."

## The California Garden

Alfred D. Robinson, Editor  
G. T. Keene, Manager  
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### MAY REGULAR MEETING



THE regular May meeting of the Association was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. M. Kew on Tuesday evening, May 21. In the dusk, before the meeting was called, a short visit was made to the charming walled garden back of the Kew house. Here many beautiful plants and blossoms were seen, arranged in a most pleasing fashion, and giving a distinctive air by the wall.

Mr. Guy Fleming gave a short report of the work done at the Rose Show. He recommended that next time we should make a feature of seeds and cuttings to be distributed at the exhibit.

The President spoke of the success of the show, which was largely due to the untiring aid and work of Mr. Morley and Mr. Fleming. However, he feels that the annual shows are not as great a benefit to the Association itself as they might be. There should be a display from all members, not only the professionals. He advises the Association to form a standing show committee, which can begin to formulate plans and create enthusiasm months ahead of time.

After a brief discussion, it was decided to eliminate the usual expenses in connection with the annual meeting in June and to make the program one of interest and benefit, without the expenditure of time, work and money.

Mr. Hiatt, Mr. Blochman and Miss Sessions were appointed by the chair as a committee for making arrangements for the annual meeting, which will be held at the Thearle Music Rooms, 640 Broadway, Tuesday evening, June 18th.

The good work in connection with sending cut flowers to the base hospital at Camp Kearny was spoken of. The public has been generous in responding to calls, the committee, Mrs. Greer, Mrs. Williams and Mrs. Morgan, most faithful in their work, and Chaplain Horene efficient in transporting and delivering the flowers to the sick men. By the way, the much heard-of Chaplain Horene is to be present at the annual meeting.

Mrs. Sweet made a plea for potted plants, hanging baskets and dried shrubbery for use at the hostess house at Camp Kearny. If word is left with Mrs. Sweet, on West Spruce street, she will see that these are called for and delivered. Mrs. Kew also needs plants and ferns at the Service Rooms in the Cabrillo Club.

Miss Sessions reported in her usual instructive and enthusiastic way upon her late trip to Mr. Huntington's gardens. Of special interest there were his wonderful tree peonies. She believes we should make more use of the eastern plants and shrubs by planting them in the back country and mountain gardens. While in the northern city Miss Sessions was very much pleased by a visit to Mr. Theodore Paynes, of California wild flower fame. His work is so valuable and successful that Miss Sessions thinks he deserves far greater support than that tendered him.

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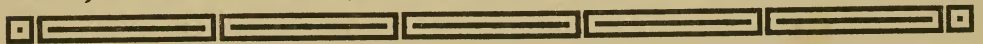
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